



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
30 PROVIDENCE ROAD

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****AMENDED 2****

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING AGENDA**
October 12, 2017
Municipal Center, Conference Room A
7:00 p.m.

RECEIVED TOWN CLERK
GRAFTON, MA
2017 OCT 12 AM 8:43

CALL TO ORDER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. SCHEDULE

- a) Joint meeting with Finance Committee and Town Moderator on Town Meeting preparation

ADJOURN

Ray: **per the bylaw- please remember to read results of each vote*

RAY:

*Welcome to the October 2017 Semi-Annual Town Meeting. As you know, local government is most successful when we have a diverse body of volunteers sitting on various boards and committees. We still have several vacancies on several different board and committees in town. *SEE SCREEN FOR LIST*

If you are interested in volunteering for a position on one of these boards, please fill out the form made available by the Clerk's Office when you came in, or go online to the portal, shown on the screen, and submit your application online. If you ever have questions about openings on boards, the role of the various committees, or any other questions related to the Town, don't ever hesitate to contact the Municipal Center.

THOMAS ARTICLE 1. RECEIVE REPORTS OF OFFICES, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

I move the town vote to pass over this article.

HANNA ARTICLE 2. AMEND TOWN CHARTER

I move the Town vote to approve the changes proposed to the Charter of the Town of Grafton by the Charter Review Committee[GK1] relative to the capitalization of various words throughout the Charter, all as shown on a draft of the Charter dated January 12, 2017, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.

Sargon: "Mr. Moderator, at this time, I would like to ask the Chair of the Charter Review Committee to speak to articles 2-12, all of which relate to amending the Town Charter.

SPINNEY ARTICLE 3. AMEND TOWN CHARTER – SECTION 3-4 SCHOOL COMMITTEE

I move the Town vote to amend Section 3-4 of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant.

PADGETT ARTICLE 4. AMEND TOWN CHARTER – SECTION 3-5: TOWN CLERK

I move the Town vote to amend Section 3-5 of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant.

THOMAS ARTICLE 5. AMEND TOWN CHARTER – ARTICLE 3: ELECTED OFFICIALS

I move the Town vote to amend Article 3 of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant.

HANNA ARTICLE 6. AMEND TOWN CHARTER – SECTION 3-2 (D) APPOINTMENT

I move the Town vote to amend Section 3-2 (D) of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant.

SPINNEY ARTICLE 7. AMEND TOWN CHARTER – SECTION 3-1: ELECTIVE OFFICES

I move the Town vote to amend Section 3-1 of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant.

PADGETT ARTICLE 8. AMEND TOWN CHARTER – SECTION 2-3(B) FINANCE COMMITTEE

I move the Town vote to amend Section 2-3(B) of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant.

THOMAS ARTICLE 9. AMEND TOWN CHARTER – SECTION 5-6: BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

I move the Town vote to amend Section 5-6 of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant.

HANNA ARTICLE 10. AMEND TOWN CHARTER – SECTIONS 7-5: DEFINITIONS & 7-9: PROCEDURES GOVERNING MULTIPLE MEMBER BODIES

I move the Town vote to amend Section 7-5 and Section 7-9 of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant.

SPINNEY ARTICLE 11. AMEND TOWN CHARTER – ARTICLE 8 – TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

I move the Town vote to amend Article 8 of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant.

PADGETT ARTICLE 12. AMEND TOWN CHARTER – ARTICLE 4: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

I move the Town vote to amend Article 4 of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant and in the paragraph beginning with “ Within forty-five days following the date...”, strike the phrase “choose one of said nominees” in the first sentence, and replace it with “take action on the list of nominees”.

THOMAS ARTICLE 13. ADJUST FY18 OPERATING BUDGET

I move that the Town vote to adjust the FY18 budget as follows:

BUDGET TRANSFERS:

| AMOUNT: | TRANSFER FROM: | TRANSFER TO: |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---|
| \$3,500 | Recreation Salaries | Article 6, 5/16 Ferry Street Fence Replacement |
| \$2,600 | Board of Selectmen Salaries | Unclassified Expenses |
| \$2,600 | Veterans Services Personnel | Veterans Services Expenses |
| | TOTAL | |

AND TO APPROPRIATE:

| AMOUNT: | ACCOUNT |
|----------------|-------------------|
| \$30,000 | Highway Personnel |

| | |
|----------|--|
| \$17,500 | Nelson Library Personnel |
| \$11,900 | Nelson Library Expenses |
| \$25,000 | South Grafton Community House Expenses |
| \$50,000 | Town Administrator Expenses |
| \$5,000 | IT Expenses |
| | TOTAL |

And to meet said appropriation, raise and appropriate \$59,400 and transfer from Free Cash \$80,000.

HANNA ARTICLE 14. PRIOR FISCAL YEAR BILLS

I move the Town vote to pass over this article.

SPINNEY ARTICLE 15. FIRE DEPARTMENT RETIREMENT

I move the Town vote to appropriate \$1,400 from free cash for the purposes of funding the Fire Department Retirement Account.

PADGETT ARTICLE 16. SICK AND VACATION BUYBACK

I move the Town vote appropriate \$23,000 from free cash to fund the accumulated sick and vacation leave buyback for retiring employees pursuant to the Town By-Laws and/or collective bargaining agreements.

THOMAS ARTICLE 17. FUNDING FOR FOLLETTE STREET WELL PROJECT

I move the Town vote to appropriate \$10,000 from free cash to the Follette Street Well Project Account for the purpose of funding the Follette Street Well Project, pursuant to Article 10 of the May 11, 2009 Special Town Meeting.

HANNA ARTICLE 18. PURCHASE OF SNOW PLOW OPERATIONS EQUIPMENT

I move the Town vote to appropriate \$35,000 from free cash for the purchase of snow plow operations related materials to fit two new DPW operations vehicles.

SPINNEY ARTICLE 19. CPC AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESERVE

I move the Town vote to reserve \$47,682 from the FY2018 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Affordable Housing.

PADGETT ARTICLE 20. CPC OPEN SPACE RESERVE

I move the Town vote to reserve \$47,682 from the FY2018 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Open Space.

THOMAS ARTICLE 21. CPC HISTORIC PRESERVATION RESERVE

I move the Town vote to reserve \$47,682 from the FY2018 Community Preservation Fund revenues for Historic Preservation.

HANNA ARTICLE 22. FUND FOR CPA PURPOSES

I move the Town vote to reserve \$182,305 from the FY2018 Community Preservation Fund revenues for FY18 Community Preservation Fund purposes.

SPINNEY ARTICLE 23. CPC – AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST TRANSFER

I move the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$48,642 from the CPA Affordable Housing Reserve account to the Grafton Affordable Housing Trust, with such funds to be used in accordance with the CPA guidelines for community housing.

PADGETT ARTICLE 24. CPC – STONE ARCH BRIDGE PROJECT

I move the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$120,000 from the CPC Undesignated Fund to complete the Stone Arch Bridge Project.

THOMAS ARTICLE 25. ROAD IMPROVEMENT STABILIZATION FUND

I move the Town vote to transfer \$1,500,000 from the Road Improvement Stabilization fund to the Road Improvement Capital Expenditures fund for road improvement projects consistent with Chapter 90 rules and regulations as recommended by the DPW Advisory committee and approved by the Board of Selectmen.

HANNA ARTICLE 26. SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

I move the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to Article 4, Section 9 of the Town By-Laws, to sell under such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate, surplus equipment and vehicles no longer needed by the Department of Public Works.

SPINNEY ARTICLE 27. INCREASE LIMIT FOR SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

I move the Town vote to amend Article 4, Section 9 of the Town of Grafton By-Laws to increase the sale threshold for approval to sell surplus equipment at Town Meeting from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

PADGETT ARTICLE 28. SOLAR TAX AGREEMENT

I move the Town vote in accordance with M.G.L Chapter 59, Section 38H, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Tax Agreement with the lessees/operators of the solar photovoltaic energy generating facilities or its assign for a period of up to twenty-five (25) years, and to approve said agreement under which the lessees/operators or its assign will pay the Town a sum of money per year relative to 207 Providence Road, Assessor's Map 99, Lot 10, related to the proposed construction and operation of a Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation with an expected nameplate capacity of approximately 1,319 megawatts, said Tax Agreement is on file in the Town Clerk's Office, and further to allow the Board of Selectmen to negotiate any amendments necessary to said Tax Agreement to reflect any changes in the size of the parcel of land or size of the system so long as the payments reflected in the Tax Agreement rise or lower commensurately.

THOMAS ARTICLE 29. BROOKWMEADOW VILLAGE ROADWAY ACCEPTANCE

I move the Town vote to accept the roadways and associated utilities and easements known as “Brookmeadow Village”, Phase 1.

HANNA ARTICLE 30. SOUTH GRAFTON WATER DISTRICT HYDRANTS

I move the Town vote to accept the following list of hydrants from the South Grafton Water District for the Brookmeadow Village Development.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Hydrant #104 – 5 Brookmeadow | Hydrant # 108 – 27 Brookmeadow | Hydrant # 117 – 24 Taft Mill Road |
| Hydrant #105 – 5 Brookmeadow | Hydrant # 109 – 33 Brookmeadow | Hydrant # 118 – 17 Taft Mill Road |
| Hydrant #106 – 12 Brookmeadow | Hydrant # 116 – 34 Taft Mill Road | Hydrant # 119 – 5 Taft Mill Road Hydrant # 120- 4 Taft Mill Road |
| Hydrant #107 – 20 Brookmeadow | Hydrant # 124 – 25 Taft Mill Road | Hydrant # 121 – Taft Mill Rd & Milford Road |

SPINNEY ARTICLE 31. FUND AUDIENCE RESPONSE SYSTEMS VOTING DEVICES

I move the Town vote appropriate \$7,000 from free cash to purchase an Audience Response System voting device for use at Town Meeting.

PADGETT ARTICLE 32. PORTABLE POLICE RADIOS

I move the Town vote to appropriate \$5,200 from free cash to fund the Article 6 of the May 6, 2017 Annual Town Meeting for purchasing accessories for portable police radios.

THOMAS ARTICLE 33. FUND PART-TIME ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

I move the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000 for the purposes of funding a part-time Economic Development Coordinator position.

HANNA ARTICLE 34. NORTH GRAFTON TRANSIT VILLAGE OVERLAY DISTRICT

I move the Town vote to amend the Grafton Zoning By-Laws by establishing a North Grafton Transit Village Overlay District (NGTVOD) and to encourage smart growth in accordance with the purposes of G.L. Chapter 40R, as printed in 2017 October Town Meeting Warrant, and to add the following language:

Amendment to Section 3 Use and Intensity Regulations: Proposed Amendment to Section 3.1.1 to add the title “North Grafton Transit Village Overlay District” to the list of districts and to amend Section 3.1.5 entitled District Intents and Purposes to add a new Section 3.1.5.15 entitled “North Grafton Transit Village Overlay District.”

SPINNEY ARTICLE 35. SALES PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

I move the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a sales partnership with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a parcel of property located on Pine Street in the town of Grafton.

PADGETT ARTICLE 36. DESIGN AND ENGINEERING FOR ROUTE 30

I move the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000 for the engineering and design of a water and sewer line along Route 30.

THOMAS ARTICLE 37. LEASE 3000 GALLON FIRE TANKER ENGINE

I move the Town vote to appropriate \$97,367 from free cash, and to transfer \$33,175 from Article 15 of the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting titled "FY18 Capital Expenditure Budget", to make the first lease payment on a 3000-gallon fire tanker engine.

HANNA ARTICLE 38. STAFFING STUDY – GRAFTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

I move the Town vote to appropriate \$15,000 from free cash to complete a staffing study of the Grafton Fire Department.

SPINNEY ARTICLE 39. ENVIRONMENTAL PHASE I AND MARKET STUDY – 27 UPTON STREET (DPW SITE)

I move the Town vote to appropriate \$10,000 from free cash to complete an Environmental Phase I and market study of the property located at 27 Upton Street.

PADGETT ARTICLE 40. FUND FEASIBILITY/ SCHEMATIC DESIGN OF NORTH STREET ELEMENTARY WINDOW AND DOOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT

I move the Town appropriate \$50,000 from free cash for the purpose of paying costs of feasibility study and schematic design for the replacement of windows and doors at the North Street Elementary School at 60 North St Grafton MA 01519, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and for which Town of Grafton may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of the School Committee. To meet this appropriation the Town Administrator, with the approval of the Board of Selectman is authorized to transfer the funds from free cash. The Town of Grafton acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town of Grafton incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town of Grafton, and that the amount of funding authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement [BK2] that may be executed between the Town of Grafton and the MSBA.

THOMAS ARTICLE 41. REMEDIATION OF CONTAMINATED WELL – 159 MILLBURY ST.

I move the Town vote to appropriate \$20,000 from free cash for the purpose of potential remediation of the well located at 159 Millbury Street, including if necessary connecting the property to town water and decommissioning the well, should it become clear that the well is contaminated and the contamination is due to the Town's deicing activities.

Jen to speak: Mr. Moderator, there are a number of legal issues surrounding this article, and I would like to ask Ginny Kremer, Town Counsel, to speak to these issues prior to the Town taking a vote.

HANNA ARTICLE 42. LONG RANGE IT ACCOUNT

I move the Town vote to appropriate \$25,000 from free cash to fund the Long-Range Information Technology Maintenance Account, pursuant to Article 17 of the May 12, 2014 Annual Town Meeting.

SPINNEY ARTICLE 43. APPROPRIATION TO STABILIZATION FUND

I move the Town vote to appropriate \$200,000 from free cash to fund the Stabilization Trust Fund.

PADGETT ARTICLE 44. APPROPRIATION TO OPEB TRUST FUND

I move the town vote to pass over this article.

Potential Alternate Motions:

ARTICLE 6. AMEND TOWN CHARTER – SECTION 3-2 (D) APPOINTMENT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Charter as follows:

AMEND SECTION 3-2 (D) APPOINTMENT

By deleting Section 3-2(d) **APPOINTMENT** in its entirety

~~**(d) Appointment** — The board of selectmen shall appoint a town administrator, constables, the members of the board of appeals, the registrars of voters (but not the town clerk) and other election officers, the conservation commission, the industrial development finance authority, other members of multiple members bodies the functions of which do not involve direct operating responsibilities, but, are primarily policy making or advisory in nature, and individuals who are to serve as representatives or delegates of the town to the governing or advisory boards of regional or district authorities.~~

and adding a new Section 3-2(d) **APPOINTMENT** to read as follows:

APPOINTMENT – The Board of Selectmen shall appoint a Town Administrator, Town Clerk (**strike if Article 4 fails**), the members of the Planning Board (**strike if Article 5 fails**), Constables, the members of the Board of Appeals, the Registrars of Voters and other election officers, the Conservation Commission, the Industrial Development Finance Authority, other members of multiple members bodies, the functions of which do not involve direct operating responsibilities, but are primarily policy making or advisory in nature, and individuals who are to serve as representatives or delegates of the town to the governing or advisory boards of regional or district authorities. See Section 8-5 (a) for a complete list of current Selectmen appointees.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

STANDARD MOTION: I move the Town vote to amend Section 3-2 (D) of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant.

1 ALTERNATE MOTION (Art. 4 fail, Art. 5 pass): I move the Town vote to amend Section 3-2 (D) of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant, and to strike “Town Clerk” from the list of appointments.

2 ALTERNATE MOTION (Art. 4 pass, Art. 5 fails): I move the Town vote to amend Section 3-2 (D) of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant, and to strike “Planning Board” from the list of appointments.

3 ALTERNATE MOTION (Art 4 and 5 fail): I move the Town vote to amend Section 3-2 (D) of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant, and to strike “Town Clerk” and “Planning Board” from the list of appointments.

ARTICLE 7. AMEND TOWN CHARTER – SECTION 3-1: ELECTIVE OFFICES

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Charter as follows:

AMEND SECTION 3-1: ELECTIVE OFFICES

By deleting the current Section 3-1(a) **Elective Offices** in its entirety

~~(a) **Elective offices** – The town offices to be filled by ballot of the whole town shall be a board of selectmen, a school committee, a planning board, a board of library trustees, a town moderator, and a town clerk. In addition, members of a housing authority, and such members of regional authorities or districts as may be established by statute, inter-local agreement or otherwise shall also be elected at town elections.~~

and adding a new Section 3-1(a) **Elective Offices** to read as follows:

Elective offices – The Town offices to be filled by ballot of the whole town shall be a Board of Selectmen, a School Committee, a Board of Library Trustees, and a Town Moderator **(include Planning Board if Article 5 fails, and include Town Clerk if Article 4 fails)**. In addition, members of a Housing Authority, and such members of regional authorities or districts as may be established by statute, inter-local agreement or otherwise shall also be elected at Town election.

And by amending Section 3-1 by deleting Section 3-1(f)(1) **Town Officer** in its entirety **(Unless Article 4 or 5 fails, in which case, this section should be passed over)**

~~(f)(1) **Town Officer** – If there is a failure to elect, or if a vacancy occurs in the office of town clerk, the board of selectmen shall, in writing, appoint some suitable person to serve until the next town election.~~

and renumbering the remaining sections of Section 3-1(f) to reflect this deletion.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

STANDARD MOTION: I move the Town vote to amend Section 3-1 of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant.

1 ALTERNATE MOTION 1 (Art. 4 fail, 5 pass): I move the Town vote to amend Section 3-1 of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant, and to include “Town Clerk” in the list of elective offices, and not to delete Section 3-1(f)(1) Town Officer.

2 ALTERNATE MOTION 2 (Art. 4 pass, 5 fail): I move the Town vote to amend Section 3-1 of the Town Charter as printed in the October 2017 Town Meeting Warrant, and to include “Planning Board” in the list of elective offices, and not to delete Section 3-1(f)(1) Town Officer.

3 ALTERNATE MOTION 3 (Art. 4 and 5 fail): I move the Town vote to pass over Article 7.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Town of Grafton

30 Providence Road

Grafton, MA 01519

(508) 839-5335 x 1167

www.grafton-ma.gov

Recommendations of the Finance Committee for the Articles prepared for the Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for October 16, 2017:

Article 1 Receive Reports Of Offices, Boards and Committees

Finance Committee recommends acceptance of any reports presented.

Article 2 Amend Town Charter

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 2 as written.

This is a housekeeping article to clean up the Charter for mistakes such as spelling and capitalization errors.

Article 3 Amend Town Charter-Section 3-4 School Committee

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 3 as written.

The re-wording eliminates confusion by clearly stating that there **will be** a School Committee.

Article 4 Amend Town Charter – Section 3-5 – Town Clerk

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 4 as written.

The Town Clerk's position has become technical in nature over the past several years. It is important to have a Town Clerk that understands the complexities of the job and has prior experience and certifications as a Town Clerk. To accomplish this, Candidates need to be properly vetted. This would be accomplished through the appointment process.

Article 5 Amend Town Charter – Article 3 – Elected Officials

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 5 as written.

The Planning Board performs a very important function for the Town. Planning Board is an impartial body charged with implementing and determining Land Use Policy for the Town. For this reason, the registered voters of Grafton need to have a say in the individuals serving the Town in this very important role.

Article 6 Amend Town Charter – Section 3-2 (D) Appointment

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 6 as written.

Since the Finance Committee opposes passage of Articles 5, this Section of the Charter should not be changed and the Planning Board should remain elected.

Article 7 Amend Town Charter – Section 3-1: Elective Offices

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 7 as written.

Since the Finance Committee opposes passage of Articles 5, this Section of the Charter should not be changed and the Planning Board should remain elected.

Article 8 Amend Town Charter- Section 2-3(B) Finance Committee

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 8 as written.

This article clears up language presently in the Charter concerning the Finance Committee's duties and responsibilities.

Article 9 Amend Town Charter – Section 5-6: Board of Sewer Commissioners

The Finance recommends passage of Article 9 as written.

This article is a housekeeping article and updates the Town Charter to reflect current practice.

The Board of Sewer Commissioners is a three member Board appointed by the Town Administrator.

Article 10 Amend Town Charter – Sections 7-5 and 7-9

The Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 10 as written.

This article updates the Town Charter to add the Town's Website to the definition of "Local Newspaper" since public meeting notices and advertisements are also placed on the Town's website in addition to the local newspapers. It also updates the procedures governing multiple member bodies so that all agendas are posted in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws.

Article 11 Amend Town Charter- Article 8- Transitional Provisions

Finance Committee recommends passage Article 11 as written.

This article serves to clarify language in the Charter concerning Transitional Provisions, and makes clear which town positions the Board of Selectmen appoints, and which town positions the Town Administrator appoints.

Article 12 Amend Town Charter – Article 4: Town Administrator

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 12 as written.

The revisions clarify the role, composition and timing of the Screening Committee; removes outdated references to the Town Administrator's salary; and more appropriately calibrates experience and education for candidates for the Town Administrator position.

Article 13 Adjust FY18 Operating Budget

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 13 as written.

Article 13 requests the transfers among these accounts:

 \$3,500 from Recreation Expenses to Article 6, May 2016 Ferry Street Fence

Replacement;

 \$2,600 from Board of Selectmen Salaries to Unclassified Expenses;

 \$2,600 from Veterans Services Personnel to Veterans Services Expenses

These transfers result in no additional spending and adjust the budget that was approved at the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting to reflect updated estimates of spending within the departments noted.

Article 13 also requests that the Town appropriate \$139,400 by raising and appropriating \$59,400 and transferring from Free Cash \$80,000:

 \$30,000 – Highway Personnel

 \$17,500 – Nelson Library Personnel

 \$11,900 – Nelson Library Expenses

 \$25,000 – South Grafton Community House Expenses

 \$50,000 – Town Administrator Expenses

 \$5,000 – IT Expenses

The \$30,000 is to cover the hiring of a replacement Highway Department Head as the current head will be retiring in December. The \$17,500 and \$11,900 are to cover expenses at the Nelson Library that were initially thought to be covered by the interest earned on the funds held by the Trust. The \$25,000 is an estimated amount to be used to clean up asbestos discovered in the building. The \$50,000 is to cover the removal of unsafe structures at 24 Cortland Way. This amount will be paid back to the Town. The \$5,000 is needed to perform a software upgrade. The Finance Committee believes that these transfers and additional appropriations are appropriate responses to changed circumstances.

Article 14 Prior Fiscal Year Bills

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 14.

Finance Committee understands that this article will be passed over at Town Meeting since there are no bills to pay from prior fiscal years.

Article 15 Fire Department Retirement

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 15 in the amount of \$1,400.00.

The Town adopted the practice of providing a one-time reward of \$100 per year of volunteer firefighting service. Free Cash is the funding source for this article. Currently, the balance in this account is \$25.00.

Article 16 Sick and Vacation buyback

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 16 as written in the amount of \$23,000.00.

Town By-Law includes paying for unused sick and vacation days upon retirement with the Free Cash as its funding source.

Article 17 Funding for Follette Street Well Project

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 17 in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Free Cash will be the source of funding for the Follette Street Well Project to continue the DEP mandate to monitor this well for groundwater contamination.

Article 18 Purchase of Snow Plow Operations Equipment

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 18 as written.

The anticipated sum of \$35,000.00 from free cash is necessary to equip the DPW's snow removal fleet appropriately. The Town was able to purchase the trucks with Chapter 90 Funds. Chapter 90 funds did not cover the purchase of the snow plows.

Article 19 CPC Affordable Housing Reserve

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 19 in the amount of \$47,682.90.

This article satisfies the Community Preservation Act requirement to reserve 10% of Community Preservation Act funds for affordable housing purposes.

Article 20 CPC Open Space Reserve

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 20 in the amount of \$47,682.90.

This article satisfies the Community Preservation Act requirement to reserve 10% of Community Preservation Act funds for open space purposes.

Article 21 CPC Historic Preservation Reserve

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 21 in the amount of \$47,682.90.

This article satisfies the Community Preservation Act requirement to reserve 10% of Community Preservation Act funds for historical preservation purposes.

Article 22 Fund for CPA Purposes

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 22 in the amount of \$182,305.32.

This article is a routine procedural article necessary to set aside Community Preservation Act funds for future use.

Article 23 CPC Affordable Housing Transfer

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 23 as written.

This article transfers \$48,643.00 from the CPA Reserve to the Grafton Affordable Housing Trust. This transfer is ordinarily reviewed at the May Town Meeting and was inadvertently left of the warrant last Spring

Article 24 CPC Stone Arch Bridge Project

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 24 as written.

This article appropriates the sum of \$120,000 from the CPC Undesignated Fund for completion of the Stone Arch Bridge project.

Article 25 Road Improvement Stabilization Fund

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 25 in the amount of \$1,500,000.00. Funds raised for road repair through the 2014 override are accumulated in the Roads Stabilization Fund. These funds cannot be put to work repairing roads until they are transferred out of this Stabilization Fund to the Road Improvement Capital Expenditures Fund at a town meeting. Article 25 transfers \$1,500,000.00 to the Road Improvement Capital Expenditures fund. Passage of Article 25 requires a two-thirds majority vote.

Article 26 Sale of Surplus Equipment

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 26. This article authorizes the Board of Selectmen to sell equipment exceeding the price of \$5,000.00 that is no longer needed by the Town.

Article 27 Increase Limit for Sale of Surplus Equipment

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 27 as written. This is a housekeeping article to simplify common processes.

Article 28 Solar Tax Agreement

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 28 as written. This article will authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into tax agreement with the owners of the solar photovoltaic energy facility located at 207 Providence Road. By authorizing the Board of Selectmen to enter into this agreement, the Town will have a known in lieu of tax payment over the next twenty-five years from the Operator of the facility and allow the Town to plan its finances accordingly.

Article 29 Brookmeadow Village Roadway Acceptance

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 29. The roadways have met all the requirements, including a Certificate of Completeness granted by the Planning Board, for being accepted as Town Ways. The Board of Selectmen has reviewed the Certificate of Completeness and has voted to accept these road ways.

Article 30 South Grafton Water District Hydrants

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 30 as written. This article provides acceptance of additional hydrants to the Town's hydrants list from the South Grafton Water District.

Article 31 Fund Audience Response Systems Voting Devices

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 31 in the amount of \$7,000.00. This article is funded by Free Cash to extends "clicker" coverage to every one of the 665 seats in the new high school auditorium. The clickers offer very quick counts and anonymity for voters.

Article 32 Portable Police Radios

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 32 in the amount of \$5,200.00.
Free Cash will provide the funding for these radios that were budgeted previously to be purchased, but were not and the sum was directed to free cash.

Article 33 Fund Part-time Economic Development Coordinator

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 33 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00.
This is an opportunity for Grafton to put a stronger focus on economic development that will greatly benefit the Town.

Article 34 North Grafton Transit Village Overlay District

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 34 as written.
This article will enable development of the old State Hospital property on Pine Street, with a mixed use type of development that will bring significant advantages to the Town. Finance Committee understands that there will be amendments to correct some minor details to ensure that this will work as intended.

Article 35 Sales Partnership With The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 35 in the amount of \$100,000.00.
This article will raise and appropriate \$100,000.00 to enter into this sales partnership that is in the interests of economic development in Grafton.

Article 36 Design and Engineering for Route 30

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 36 in the amount of \$50,000.00.
This design and engineering study will be funded by Free Cash and will further the interests of economic development along Route 30.

Article 37 Lease 3000 Gallon Fire Tanker Engine

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 37 in the amount of \$130,542.00.
This purchase, funded by Free Cash and left over Capital Funds, is made in conjunction with the Town's capital plan for the replacement of aging fire equipment.

Article 38 Staffing Study- Grafton Fire Department

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 38 as written.
This article appropriates \$15,000.00 from free cash to complete a staffing study of the Grafton Fire Department.

Article 39 Environmental Phase I And Market Study-27 Upton Street (DPW Site)

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 39 in the amount of \$10,000.00.
This article is funded by Free Cash to determine the environmental status of 27 Upton Street since it is in the long-term interests of economic development in Grafton.

Article 40 Fund Feasibility/Schematic Design Of North Street Elementary Window and Door Replacement Project

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 40 in the amount of \$50,000.00.

The replacement of these 48 year old windows and doors has been requested by the School Department for several years within the Capital Improvement Plan but has not been able to be funded based on where it fell in the need/cost analysis process. The Town recently applied for a grant in conjunction with the MSBA that would allow the Town to receive 52% reimbursement for the 106 windows and 14 exterior doors that are in need of replacement. The Town has passed through Phase I of the study by the MSBA that has tagged North Street Elementary School needs as a viable project to be awarded the grant. The next Phase is to undergo a design and feasibility study funded by the Town costing approximately \$50,000.00 to be transferred from Free Cash. The Finance Committee believes that this project should be approved in conjunction with the MSBA to take advantage of the grant funding as well as the energy cost savings that the Town will benefit from going forward.

Article 41 Remediation Of Contaminated Well -159 Millbury St.

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 41 in the amount of \$20,000.00.

The Town Administration considers it at least possible that run-off from snow remediation efforts has negatively impacted well-water at 159 Millbury Street. It is in the interests of Town residents that 159 Millbury Street is connected to town water.

Article 42 Long Range IT Account

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 42 in the amount of \$25,000.00.

This article appropriates \$25,000 from Free Cash to fund the Long-Range Information Technology Maintenance Account.

Article 43 Appropriation to Stabilization Fund

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 43 in the amount of \$200,000.00.

Using Free Cash to reimburse this account continues sound financial practices that maintain Grafton's favorable bond rating by maintaining a stabilization account with a total between five and ten percent of the town budget. This article serves to reimburse funds spent on Snow and Ice Removal Expenses incurred from the previous fiscal year.

Article 44 Appropriation To OPEB Trust Fund

Finance Committee opposes passage of Article 44.

Finance Committee understands that this article will be passed over at Town Meeting.

Finance Committee does, however, agree that we need to analyze the Town's exposure to liabilities resulting from retirees' health insurance and other post retirement costs. OPEB (Other Post-employment Benefits) are benefits that an employee (Municipal and School) begins to receive at the start of retirement. This does not include pension benefits paid to the retired employee.

